

Breaking the Silence: The Lost Words of Helen Keller (tentative name)

This unprecedented worldwide virtual event will be the first public unveiling of a recorded message by Helen Keller made 90 years ago. Found in a time capsule buried in New York City by the American Foundation of the Blind, the recording includes a presentation by then AFB President M.C. Migel, Editor of the New York Times Dr. John Finley, and Helen Keller and Polly Thompson. Participants in the event will be the first to hear Helen's words since they were spoken in 1934. The event will be co-facilitated by Eric Bridges, CEO of the American Foundation for the Blind, and Dr. Craig Meador, President of the American Printing House for the Blind. The two organizations are partnering to ensure that the legacy and message of Helen Keller continues to positively influence society.

Suggested dates: December 2, 13, 16, 17, 18

Suggested time: 7:00-8:00 pm EST

Suggested Agenda

Welcome by Eric Bridges and Craig Meador (4 minutes)

- Welcome and introductions
- Eric explains AFB, Craig explains APH
- Brief discussion of the organizational partnership

Video by American Foundation for the Blind (4 minutes)

- Focuses on Helen Keller's history with the organization
- How AFB carries on that legacy today
- Eric summarizes at end

Introduction of Archivist (4 minutes)

- Eric and Craig introduce Justin Gardner
- Justin explains the context of the time capsule and the contents
- Justin explains the archival process of retrieving the recording
- B-roll or photographs of archival content shared and described

Transition to Recording (1 minute)

- Craig and Eric each ask Justin one question about the recording
- Housekeeping on Q&A, comments, etc,

Recording plays (20 minutes)

Q&A session (15 minutes)

Sharing Helen's Voice (5 minutes)

- Craig and Eric talk about the partnership to share the Helen Keller Archives through the Dot Experience
- Video from APH about the Dot Experience

Wrap-up (1 minute)

- How you can learn more about the Dot Experience, AFB, APH
- Thanks yous and goodbye